

Condition of transfer.

Surplus lands of Department of Army.

Acquisition of land.

Appropriation authorized.

to the lands lying east of route 619, now or hereafter acquired for the Chopawamsic Park: *Provided, however,* That the transfer of jurisdiction herein authorized shall not be effectuated until funds have been made available by the Congress for the acquisition of the lands referred to in section 3 of this Act.

SEC. 2. That all of the lands that were formerly acquired by the War Department and that are now surplus to the needs of the Department of the Army within and adjacent to the Chopawamsic Park, comprising approximately one thousand one hundred and thirty-eight and sixty-two one hundredths acres, are hereby added to and made a part of that park, and shall be subject to all the laws, rules, and regulations applicable thereto.

SEC. 3. That the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of the Navy be, and they are hereby, authorized to acquire on behalf of the United States, by donation or purchase, lands adjoining or contiguous to the Chopawamsic Park, in the State of Virginia, as may be necessary for the proper rounding out of the boundaries of that park, but not exceeding one thousand five hundred acres. The title to real property acquired pursuant to this Act shall be satisfactory to the Attorney General of the United States. All property acquired by the United States pursuant to this Act shall become a part of the Chopawamsic Park upon acceptance of title thereto, and shall be subject to all laws, rules, and regulations applicable thereto.

SEC. 4. There is authorized to be appropriated not to exceed the sum of \$10,000 to carry out the provisions of section 3 of this Act.

Approved June 22, 1948.

[CHAPTER 597]

AN ACT

To provide for the voluntary admission and treatment of mental patients at Saint Elizabeths Hospital.

June 22, 1948

[H. R. 6289]

[Public Law 737]

Saint Elizabeths Hospital, D. C.
Treatment of mental patients.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That (a) the Superintendent of Saint Elizabeths Hospital may receive therein as a boarder and patient any adult person who appears to the Superintendent to be in need of mental care and treatment in a mental hospital, and who makes written application therefor and who is determined by the Superintendent to be mentally competent to make such application; and any person, under the age of twenty-one years, who appears to the Superintendent to be in need of mental care and treatment in a mental hospital, and whose parent, legal guardian, or other legal representative makes written application on behalf of such minor: *Provided,* That no such person shall be received as a boarder and patient in Saint Elizabeths Hospital under authority of this Act unless the certification provided for in subsection (b) of this section shall have been made with respect to him: *Provided further,* That no person shall be permitted to remain in such hospital as boarder and patient after the need for his treatment at a mental hospital has ceased: *And provided further,* That no person shall be permitted to remain in such hospital as a boarder and patient after the Superintendent of Saint Elizabeths Hospital or his authorized representative has been notified that the certification provided for in subsection (b) has been revoked.

(b) Upon request therefor by the Superintendent of Saint Elizabeths Hospital, the Board of Public Welfare, if it finds that any person with respect to whom the application described in subsection (a) has been made was a resident of and domiciled within the District of Columbia for one year next preceding the time of such application, shall certify to the Superintendent that it will reimburse Saint Eliza-

Reimbursement by Board of Public Welfare.

beths Hospital the cost of caring for such person as provided in section 3 of this Act; except that if the Board finds that such person, or any other person legally responsible for his care, is able to pay all or any part of the cost of such care, the Board shall not be required to make a certification unless it has, pursuant to section 3, made an agreement satisfactory to it for payment to the District of Columbia of the cost of such care or such part of such cost.

SEC. 2. Any person received at Saint Elizabeths Hospital for mental care and treatment under section 1 of this Act shall not be detained there more than three days after having given written notice to the Superintendent thereof requesting his release, or, in the case of any such person who is under the age of twenty-one years, more than three days after he or his parent, legal guardian, or other legal representative gives such notice: *Provided*, That (a) if within such three-day period there shall be filed in the District Court of the United States for the District of Columbia a petition with respect to such person, as provided by the Act entitled "An Act to provide for insanity proceedings in the District of Columbia", approved August 9, 1939, or (b) if an authorized representative of the Board of Public Welfare, upon receipt of a notice signed by the Superintendent of Saint Elizabeths Hospital or his authorized representative stating that in his opinion said person is of unsound mind and should not be allowed to remain at liberty or go unrestrained, shall within such three-day period file a verified petition for a writ de lunatico inquirendo, or for an order of commitment, accompanied by the aforesaid notice, in the said District Court, alleging upon information and belief that such person is of unsound mind and should not be allowed to remain at liberty or go unrestrained, such person shall be detained by the Superintendent of Saint Elizabeths Hospital until a final judgment is entered by the Court upon any such petition and any petition filed in accordance with clause (b) of this proviso, accompanied by the aforesaid notice, shall forthwith be referred by the Court to the Commission on Mental Health, which said petition and notice shall be sufficient to initiate proceedings before said Commission. Pending the hearing upon the petition, such person need not be sent to Gallinger Hospital for observation and treatment, but shall be detained in Saint Elizabeths Hospital for observation and treatment.

SEC. 3. The cost of board, medical care, and treatment furnished under this Act shall be a charge upon the District of Columbia and shall be paid by the District of Columbia to Saint Elizabeths Hospital. The District of Columbia is authorized to make such agreement as it deems necessary with any patient seeking board, medical care, and treatment under this Act, or any other person or persons legally responsible therefor, for payment to the District of Columbia of the cost of such board, medical care, and treatment, or for the payment of a part of such cost; and is further authorized to take appropriate steps by legal action or otherwise to enforce such agreement, or, in the absence of an agreement, to recover such cost of board, medical care, and treatment, or any part thereof, from the patient or from any person or persons legally liable therefor. The District of Columbia shall not be charged with the cost of board, medical care, and treatment furnished for any boarder and patient with respect to whom the certification required under section 1 of this Act shall have been revoked by the Board of Public Welfare, and the said Board is authorized to order revocation of any such certification: (a) When any person fails to make any payment under any agreement entered into under this Act for the cost of board, medical care, and treatment; or (b) when, after a boarder and patient has been admitted to such hospital under a certification, without any agreement having been entered into for his care and treatment, the said Board determines, upon evidence satis-

Ability of patient to pay.

Detention after notice for release.

Petition for writ de lunatico inquirendo.

53 Stat. 1293.
D. C. Code §§ 21-310
to 21-325.
Post, p. 1195.

Financial agreement.

Revocation of certification.

factory to it, that such boarder and patient is able, or other persons legally liable for his care are financially able, to bear all or part of such cost; or (c) when such certification has been made erroneously: *Provided*, That revocation of such certification shall not take effect until a copy of the order of revocation shall have been served upon the Superintendent of Saint Elizabeths Hospital or his authorized representative.

Regulations.

SEC. 4. The Superintendent of Saint Elizabeths Hospital, with the approval of the Federal Security Administrator, is authorized to prescribe such regulations as he shall deem necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act relating to the hospital.

SEC. 5. The Commissioners of the District of Columbia are authorized to prescribe such regulations as they shall deem necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act relating to the Board of Public Welfare and the District of Columbia.

Effective date.

SEC. 6. This Act shall become effective sixty days after enactment.

Approved June 22, 1948.

[CHAPTER 600]

AN ACT

To authorize the Coast Guard to operate and maintain ocean stations.

June 22, 1948

[S. 2122]

[Public Law 739]

Coast Guard.
Floating ocean sta-
tions.

Air navigation facil-
ities.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Coast Guard is authorized to operate and maintain floating ocean stations for the purpose of providing search and rescue, communication, and air navigation facilities, and meteorological services in such ocean areas as are regularly traversed by aircraft of the United States.

SEC. 2. The Coast Guard is authorized, subject to approval by the Administrator of Civil Aeronautics, to operate, on floating ocean stations authorized by section 1 hereof, such air navigation facilities as the Administrator may find necessary or desirable for the safe and efficient protection and control of air traffic. The Coast Guard, in establishing, maintaining, or operating any air navigation facilities herein provided, shall request the cooperation of the Administrator of Civil Aeronautics to the end that the personnel and facilities of the Civil Aeronautics Administration will be utilized to the fullest possible advantage.

Approved June 22, 1948.

[CHAPTER 601]

AN ACT

To preserve seniority rights of ten-point preference eligibles in the postal service transferring from the position of letter carrier to clerk or from the position of clerk to letter carrier.

June 22, 1948

[H. R. 4964]

[Public Law 739]

Postal Service.
Veterans' preference
eligibility.
58 Stat. 387.
5 U. S. C. §§ 851-869;
Supp. I, § 851 *et seq.*
Ante, p. 3; *post*, pp.
575, 1233.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That (a) any letter carrier or clerk in the postal service entitled as a preference eligible to ten points under the Veterans' Preference Act of 1944, as amended, in addition to his earned rating who, on or after the date of enactment of this Act, transfers from the position of letter carrier to that of clerk or from the position of clerk to that of letter carrier, as the case may be, shall not incur loss of seniority by reason of such transfer if, within thirty days after such transfer, he presents to the Civil Service Commission evidence satisfactory to the Commission that such transfer was necessitated principally by reason of a disability which he received on active duty in the armed forces of the United States.